

Introduction

Content level: Basic

We are so glad that you decided to listen to **Studies in “Challenging Behavior”: Keys to Understanding**. These materials were developed for the March 9, 2005 audio conference. Use this information to supplement your learning.

To make the most of this training experience:

- **Read the *Faculty Biographies and Case Studies* (pp. 4-6) and the *Applying the Information* (p. 16) handout before beginning the audio cast.** These handouts are designed to help you prepare for the program and consider how the information faculty share can be applied where you are.
- **Schedule some time for reflection after the audio conference.** An individual staff member can use the **Applying the Information** handout to practice new skills. However, discussing information as a team is the best way to get a collective sense of what is in place at your program and how team members can enhance the efforts to individualize for children you serve.
- **Use the handouts to discuss** new information on understanding and addressing challenging behavior in young children and to plan for children you serve now and will serve in the future.

The Early Head Start National Resource Center @ ZERO TO THREE



Studies in “Challenging Behavior”: Keys to Understanding

Objectives

Young children communicate through their behavior, and understanding a child’s behavior is the key to addressing it. But it is not always easy to understand children’s behavior. This audio conference will:

- Explain more about behavior as communication;
- Describe a process (the Responsive Process from the Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers) for understanding behavior’s messages;
- Offer questions that staff can ask to inform their understanding of the behavior of young children
- Share case studies exploring the use of the Responsive Process.

The Early Head Start National Resource Center @ ZERO TO THREE



Studies in “Challenging Behavior”: Keys to Understanding

Faculty Biographies and Case Studies

Janice Im, Moderator



Project Director
Literacy, Learning and Life
ZERO TO THREE
2000 M Street, NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
phone: (202) 638-1144
email: JaniceIm@zerotothree.org

Janice Im is currently a project director with ZERO TO THREE for **Literacy, Learning, and Life**, a grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education’s Early Childhood Professional Development Grant. She holds a M.S. degree in Family and Child Development, which she received from Virginia Tech University. Her past experience as an early childhood teacher, manager, Early Learning Coordinator for the national Head Start initiative on mentor-coaching, and the regional training and technical assistance lead for Early Head Start and Professional Development for the Region III Quality Improvement Center informs her work. She has also provided training and technical assistance to Region III federal staff as a Senior Early Childhood Associate with ZERO TO THREE. Janice, a certified trainer through the Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers (PITC), has presented on a variety of early childhood topics at the local, regional and national level.

A note about the following case studies:

The case studies provided on the following pages are reports of actual experiences of faculty. Names and identifying information have been changed to protect family confidentiality.

The Early Head Start National Resource Center @ ZERO TO THREE



Studies in “Challenging Behavior”: Keys to Understanding

Faculty Biographies and Case Studies (cont'd.)

Rebecca Carter-Steele



Infant Toddler Care Coordinator
University of Nevada, Reno Early Head Start
program

Mail Stop 392
Reno, NV 89557
phone: 775-327-5100
email: becky@unr.edu

Rebecca L. Carter-Steele has a Bachelor's degree in social work and a Master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Early Childhood Special Education. Becky has worked with children, families and early childhood staff for over 15 years in child abuse prevention and parent education. In her current role, Becky supervises both home visitors and child care providers in Reno's Early Head Start program. She also works as a consultant with Addressing Behavioral Challenges (ABC), a community program designed to keep children with challenging behaviors in center-based programs and family child care homes. Becky is a PITC-certified trainer and has taught numerous workshops and college courses on children and families. She is married and has a six-year-old son with special needs.

Becky's Case Study

Jim and Ellen have a newborn baby, Emma. They recently moved to town with their two other children. John is 6 years old and in first grade. Little Jim is 15 months. Ellen, age 30, works full time at a discount store for minimum wage, and Jim, age 26, works sporadically through a temporary agency. They enrolled in Early Head Start shortly after relocating, and have been working with their home visitor, Stella, since Ellen was four months pregnant with Emma.

Ellen began prenatal care starting in her fourth month of pregnancy. Ellen knew she did not eat well during the pregnancy and was always exhausted. Ellen looked forward to having the baby so she could be off work for a while and sleep when the baby slept.

Emma was born full term, weighing 6 lbs., 8 oz. When Ellen and Jim brought Emma home from the hospital, she cried the whole way home. They were confident that when they got her home they could wrap her snugly and hold her until she calmed down, but Emma did not calm down. Her parents report the only time she is quiet is when she is nursing, and that she sleeps fitfully for no more than three hours at a time. Ellen and Jim are frustrated and exhausted. They are feeling helpless because they did not experience this with either of their other two children.

The Early Head Start National Resource Center @ ZERO TO THREE



Studies in “Challenging Behavior”: Keys to Understanding

Faculty Biographies and Case Studies (cont'd.)

Donna DeForge



Mental Health Coordinator
Panhandle Community Services Head
Start/Early Head Start/Migrant Head Start
3350 10th Street
Gering, NE 69341
phone: (308) 635-3089
email: ddeforge@pcswm.com

Donna DeForge is also PITC certified. For the past 22 years, she has worked in a variety of capacities in the Head Start program serving rural Gering, Nebraska. She started there as a Home Visitor, then worked as the Infant-Toddler Education Coordinator for their summer Migrant Head Start program before becoming the Mental Health Coordinator for Early Head Start, Head Start, and Migrant Head Start. She has a particular interest in Infant Mental Health, and was instrumental in Panhandle's participation in the Pathways to Prevention (infant mental health initiative) Project. She works with both center-based and home-based providers at Panhandle, consulting closely on issues related to challenging behavior.

Donna's Case Study

Two year old Zach recently started services in the center-based aspect of his Early Head Start program after several months of home-based services. His mother is a single parent with one other child, Mary Beth, age one. Zach came to the center with limited verbal skills, using only 1 or 2 word sentences. He rarely laughed or smiled, and in fact, his facial expressions were frequently somber, often frowning. Staff were concerned by Zach's aggressive behaviors in the center. He hit, kicked, and bit others, threw toys, and cried frequently. He also had difficulty settling down at naptime, not wanting to nap, and often made loud noises when others were quiet.

The Early Head Start National Resource Center @ ZERO TO THREE

